

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 16, 17 and 51-95 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3-5, 9-15, 18, 19 and 20-50 are cancelled and new claims 61-95 are added. Applicant respectfully asserts that 7 claim groups are present in the claims. Applicant further provisionally elects Group I, comprising claims 1, 2, 6-8, 16, 17 and 51-60 and drawn to an optical information recording/reproducing apparatus and method for recording information on a recording layer on the same side using a recording reference light and an information light where information is recorded in the recording layer as an interference pattern as a result of interference between the two lights. However, Applicant asserts that the November 25 Restriction Requirement has been rendered moot by this Amendment.

The Office Action imposes a restriction requirement to one of the following inventions: Group I, comprising claims 1-11, 28-45 and 51-60 and drawn to an optical information recording and reproducing apparatus and method; Group II, comprising claims 12-27 and drawn to an optical information recording and reproducing apparatus with a wavelength selection means; and Group III, comprising claims 46-50 and drawn to an optical information recording medium. Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction requirement has been rendered moot by the Amendment to the claims. Specifically, Applicant submits that the now pending claims define 7 distinct groups of claims as follows:

Group	Claims	Title	Subject Matter
I (4I, 7D +51-60)	1, 2, 6- 8, 16, 17, 51- 60	Spatial/Phase modulation and same side illumination	Optical information recording/reproducing apparatus and method for recording information on a recording layer on the same side using a recording reference light and an information light where information is recorded in the recording layer as an interference pattern as a result of interference between the two lights.
II (4I, 5D)	61 - 69	Servo maintains same position on medium	Optical recording/reproducing apparatus with position controlling means for controlling position of recording light relative to the rotating recording medium so light follows motion of the medium.
III (1I, 4D)	70 - 74	DRAW and Verify	Optical recording apparatus with optical rotation means for rotating the polarization directions of the information and reference lights by predetermined angle on the same optical axis and verification means.
IV (2I, 2D)	75 - 78	Plural wavelength bands	Recording and reproducing apparatus with pick up device and light source emitting beams of light in a plurality of wavelength bands.
V (1I, 6D)	79 - 85	Redundant multiplex recording	Redundant multiplex recording of plural information on same location (RAID).
VI (2I, 3D)	86 - 90	Optical path for collinear lights	Optical path separating and re-composing configuration for recording and reproducing apparatus with collinear information and reference lights.
VII (1I, 4D)	91-95	Optical recording medium	Double layered recording medium capable of recording separate information in the same location.

Applicant further submits, that within Group I, claims 1, 2, 6-8, 16, 17 and 51-60 are of the same species and sufficiently related that a search for any one claim would necessitate a search for the remaining claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn in view of the foregoing amendments and so modified to restrict the invention to one of Groups I - VII of claims, as defined above.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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